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July 8, 2004

Chairman Pat Miller  
c/o Ms. Sharla Dillon  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

Re: Sprint's Comments  
Docket No. 04-00166, Rulemaking re: Rates for Inmate Pay Phone Usage

Dear Chairman Miller:

In response to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority's Notice of Filing Comments and Hearing dated July 2, 2004, Sprint offers the following comments.

Sprint supports a competitive market for inmate pay phone service and is not in favor of a rate cap for inmate local collect pay phone calls. Inmate pay phone service is competitive in Tennessee as evidenced by the number of national inmate pay phone service providers and the Tennessee Department of Correction's RFP process. Sprint believes that establishing a rate cap for inmate pay phone usage would inhibit the future benefits of competition.

Since inmate pay phone service has unique requirements (e.g. increased security requirements, etc.) which often increase the cost over a typical pay phone, Sprint encourages the TRA not to establish a rate cap but instead to allow the marketplace to continue to determine the rate. In any event, if a rate cap is established, the rate should allow the carrier to recover cost or else designated funding should be made available.

Please contact Laura Sykora (919-554-7323) or Kaye Odum (919-554-5277) if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely yours,

Edward Phillips

cc: Laura Sykora  
Kaye Odum